

Serial No. 10/805,634
Reply to Office Action of August 19, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claims 1-12 and 20-24 are allowed. Claims 13-15 and 17-19 are rejected. Claim 16 is objected to, but allowable if rewritten in proper independent form.

The specification has been amended to correct certain informalities. No new matter has been added to the specification.

Claims 13-15 and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seino (US Patent No. 6,400,237) in view of Stengel et al (US Patent No. 6,356,149).

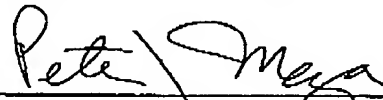
In response to the rejection of claims 13-15 and 17-18, and the objection to claim 16, claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 16. Claim 13 is thus deemed to be allowable as being properly written in independent form. Remaining claims 14-15 and 17-18 are also deemed to be allowable as being dependent upon allowable claim 13.

In view of all of the above, pending claims 1-15 and 17-24 are now believed to be either allowed or allowable and the case in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

No fee is believed due for this submittal. However, any fee deficiency associated with this submittal may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

10/17, 2005


Peter J. Meza, No. 32,920
Hogan & Hartson LLP
One Tabor Center
1200 17th Street, Suite 1500
Denver, Colorado 80202
(719) 448-5906 Tel
(303) 899-7333 Fax